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Suggestions for New Collection System

1. Much has been heard from Soviet officials, from Khrushchev on down, during recent months regarding the desirability of a free exchange of technological and economic information with the West. The Soviet statements, which are usually accompanied by pious expressions of hope that such exchanges will lead to increased trade and thus lower the impact of the U.S. recession on Western Europe, are intended to create the impression that it is the West, and not the Soviet Bloc, that is concealing significant technological and economic data. A recent example of this kind of propaganda was the speech of Soviet ECE delegate Zaharov at Geneva early in April.

2. The facts are that although the Soviet Union has been following, in comparison with the Stalin era, a more liberal policy in the dissemination of material of this kind, it in no way matches the wealth of information available regarding Western industries. In some fields, notably in nonferrous and "light" metals and alloying materials, a policy of total concealment is still being followed. In some other fields little is disclosed beyond basic production data.

3. It is suggested that the Soviets have made themselves vulnerable to Western counter publicity and that such an effort might very well result in the release of data that must now be estimated with considerable effort and dubious accuracy. Such publicity could and should be supported by appropriate observations at ECE and international

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professional meetings attended by Soviet representatives, by delegations under the exchange of visits program; in short, wherever there may be some Soviet sensitivity to needling.

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